

Design Your Own Shirtwaist

A button-down blouse, the functional shirtwaist was valued for its ready-to-wear, workplace appeal and its simple design, originally modeled on menswear shirts. At the turn of the 20th century, production of the shirtwaist was a competitive industry. Although sold across the country, the majority of shirtwaist blouses were created in Philadelphia and New York City. In Manhattan alone, there were over 450 textile factories, employing approximately 40,000 garment workers.



Fashion in the United States became very popular during the Industrial Era. Before factories could mass produce goods quickly and cheaply, clothing was made at home and each piece was one of a kind. This was called **cottage industry**, because items were made in the home.

Assignment

- « On an unlined sheet of paper, design your own women's blouse.
- « Be as detailed and creative as you can.
- « *Your goal is to wow your friends and neighbors with the clothing you can produce."*